

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA and
SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

June 10, 2014

**Adopt the Recommendations in the Final Report of the
Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection and Establish a
Transition Team to Monitor Implementation of the Recommendations**

After nine months of investigation and public hearings, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Child Protection has issued its report along with recommendations that will lead the effort to reform the child protection system. The recommendations are feasible, practical and will improve child safety.

Accomplishing structural reform within the child protection system will steer the County of Los Angeles into a new era of providing services that will embrace a child-centered philosophy. Fundamental changes to department policies, increased training, investigations of referrals regarding child abuse and neglect, and increased oversight are critical to child protection and reforming the system to better serve children and ultimately reduce child fatalities.

Achieving a paradigm shift in the child protection system is a long-term proposition. Exactly one year ago this month, the Board of Supervisors voted to create the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection. The Commission was tasked with conducting a review of previously delayed or failed efforts to implement reforms and provide recommendations for a feasible plan of action to expeditiously implement much

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Molina _____

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needed reforms.

In April, the Commission released a report containing over 40 recommendations for reform. The most unique recommendation is to create the Office of Child Protection to ensure far greater independent monitoring of child protection services among all the County departments that provide child protection services. These recommendations reflect a thoughtful and comprehensive analysis of over 700 prior Board-approved recommendations, witness testimony made available to the Commission from leaders in the child welfare field and stakeholders, review of child fatality case reports, and review of best practices in the field of child welfare.

The Board of Supervisors has a fundamental role in implementing the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection. Only the Board of Supervisors can ensure that these recommendations, which cross a wide array of County departments, are implemented in a timely and effective manner.

Implementation of the recommendations—which cannot be achieved solely by the departments—requires the restoration of long-term integrity to child protection services. Implementation of the recommendations requires partnering by the Board of Supervisors.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the recommendations in the final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection *with further CEO analysis on the cost and timeframes.*
2. *The Board of Supervisors establish the Office of Child Protection (OCP) as a separate entity that reports directly to the Board of Supervisors. The OCP will be housed within the Board of Supervisors Executive Office.*
3. *The Board of Supervisors immediately undertake an executive search for the Director of the OCP. The Transition Team should work with the Board*

of Supervisors to provide input as to job description, desired qualities and experience for the Director of OCP. The Board of Supervisors will interview candidates and select the Director of OCP.

4. *The Transition Team be requested to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors as to size and scope of the OCP, with the final determination to be made by the Board of Supervisors.*
5. Establish a Transition Team to monitor implementation of the recommendations, upon adoption by the Board, contained in the Commission's report of April 2014.
6. The Transition Team should be comprised of **9** members:
 - a. Five (5) members chosen by the Board of Supervisors; and,
 - b. ***One (1) representatives from the Blue Ribbon Commission for Child Protection;*** and,
 - c. A representative from Juvenile Court; and,
 - d. A representative from the Chief Executive Office; and,
 - e. ***A representative from the Children's Commission.***
7. Direct the CEO and other relevant County departments who provide child protection services to collaborate with the Transition Team to prioritize implementation of the recommendations.
8. ***Recommend to the Transition Team an assessment of Medical Hubs and Public Health Nurse programs to identify each Hub's strengths and weaknesses and recommend a plan for immediate implementation to meet the needs of each geographic area.***
9. Request that the Transition Team provide formal advice to the Board regarding recommendations for child safety, until the new, overarching Office of Child Protection is created to act as a unified coordinating entity.

10. *Prior to implementation of any the Blue Ribbon Commission recommendations, the Chief Executive Office will work with all relevant County departments, the Transition Team and/or OCP to determine cost of implementation and identify a source of funding for Board of Supervisors approval and execution. Chief Executive Office and relevant departments are also to identify savings within their departments and could offset any of these costs.*

11. Once created, the Office of Child Protection is to establish a critical pathway for the provision of child protection services in the County of Los Angeles, including but not limited to, developing one Countywide strategic plan, defining program outcomes and measures of success, streamlining of processes for greater efficiency, along with a timeline of major milestones.

12. Request that the Transition Team report back to the Board of Supervisors each month, beginning August 5, 2014, on the status of implementing the recommendations, and request that the Chair of the Board place this matter as a set item on the regular agenda.

MR/sf